

**Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on May 16, 2018.**

**Present at Meeting:** Stacy Paton, Michele Madonna, Kathy Travers, Maria DiMartino, Andrea Pennington, Cathy Squasoni, Christy Soell, Lisa Monard, Mei Ding, Dipti Singh Chauhan, Haneeta Tobaccowalla, Gloria Dreyer, Jennifer Pataki, Joy Wenberg, Jean Onufrak and Dana Sileo

**Staff Present at Meeting:** Dr. Scot Beckerman and Ms. Kelly Peterfriend

Stacy Paton called the meeting to order at 9:11am

**HASA President- Stacy Paton:** Stacy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Superintendent's Report- Dr. Scot Beckerman:** Dr. Scot Beckerman explained that Mr. Occhino is dealing with an emergency and, therefore, could not attend the HASA meeting this morning. He also explained that Mr. Koth would not be in attendance because he is recovering from pink eye and doesn't want to infect anyone.

The budget passed, board and county approved it, and all is set in stone. The solar panel project is finally in progress on the roof and it is about 50% done. Internships and community service options were all approved. Thanks to HASA for Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Everyone always enjoys this event and is very grateful.

Graduation will be live streamed again this year. It will be on our website, where a link will be provided to click on to see the ceremony. It does not cost anything to watch. Added screens and cameras on both sides of gym provide live streaming in the building as well.

Relay for life is June 9. We are planning to hold the event outdoors. LED lights have been added so extra generator lighting should not be needed. Same holds true for the fields.

Mr Occhino sent email to the state offering Highlands as the venue for a round table discussion to be held at Northern Highlands. We are happy to report that Northern Highlands has been selected as a host site by the NJDOE. Save Our Schools NJ (SOSNJ) is the host and the event will take place on June 12, 2018 at 7:00pm in the main cafeteria. It is encouraged that students, parents, and teachers participate in the roundtable discussions. NJDOE is seeking input and recommendations from educational professionals, teachers, parents, and students on how best to proceed with statewide assessments for students in NJ public schools. Specifically, the NJDOE representatives would like to meet with the various stakeholders with regard to the type of assessment that could replace PARCC, both immediately and in the longer term, as well as the future of New Jersey's standardized testing graduation requirement. Even the graduating students are encouraged to attend.

The campus over the summer will have limitations due to construction. Much of the campus will be shut down. The stadium will be shut for construction and the re-grading of the track will also limit use. Front gym being totally refurbished, except for the bleachers, which will be refurbished in the future. A parent asked if gym will be ready for sports, that begin in the summer. Dr. Beckerman said that they hope that it will be completed the first or second week of

August. Less work is being done on this gym, than what was done on the back gym. Back gym took longer because the new bleachers were back ordered and therefore not finished. The variables are different for this project so hopefully will get it done on time.

This Friday is eighth grade family orientation. Administration currently accessing whether students should attend as well as parents for future years. They are reassessing this procedure because a lot of the students didn't feel that it was productive. This is based on multiple grade feedback. Thoughts for the future include setting up the event during a home lacrosse game, or some other athletic function for kids to attend instead. They want to modify the evening to make more enjoyable and informative for incoming freshman class. This year there was an extra variable where there wasn't enough time to set it up differently.

**School Counseling Report- Ms. Kelly Peterfriend:** Ms. Peterfriend spoke about Application Boot Camp for rising seniors. Applications for rising seniors only is now on-line. Next week, the week of May 22, is senior wellness week. May 22, Eddie Kane will speak. May 23 is panel of students who graduated last year. They will share their experience and current seniors will be able ask questions. Harlan Cohen will MC this portion. This same night, Harlan will give presentation for parents and on May 24 Harlan will work with the students.

92.9% of NH seniors are off to 4 year colleges. 3.3% are going to a two-year college. 1.5% attending a college outside of the country. 2.3% are going into the military, going to work or other. Spring communicator will give more in depth understanding of college stats and process.

Guidance is on time with master scheduling timing. Students can expect to be called down soon if there are conflicts with their schedules for next year.

Guidance working on new Guidance Dept. curriculum. They realize that they haven't seen the students as much as they should have and want to correct this. Kids and parents need to be realistic and take suggestions made from guidance with regard to college choices. Be open and honest about your list. Student must love safety school and know they would be happy to attend. Colleges are becoming more competitive and a good fit school is most appropriate. You need to be in right place and excel. Parent asked if it is possible to redo Naviance stats to include only data from past 2-3 years because current info is misleading and wrong. Ms. Peterfriend is participating in a panel for independent counselors in Atlantic City. She is excited to attend and curious what the panel will discuss.

The practice test for the SAT and the practice ACT (Aspire) will be discussed with tenth and eleventh graders. It is optional for tenth graders. If a student in the tenth grade is in geometry, then they have not learned all of the material that is in the math section of these standardized tests. The registrations are due for rising tenth and eleventh graders.

Parent inquired about the number of excused absences for college visiting days for seniors. There has been no talk about increasing excused absences for college visits. State considers absences over 18 as truancy.

Senior trip cancelled because only 7 students signed up to go. Students didn't like trip because Ramsey swim club wasn't special enough. They also didn't think swim club had enough to do especially for a cost of \$65 per person. Because places have to be reserved and hard to reschedule last minute, it is unlikely that something will be scheduled now.

**HASA President's Report- Stacy Paton:** Stacy thanked all who baked and brought desserts for the Staff appreciation Luncheon. The remaining dessert trays were donated to the fundraiser that students were conducting for "The Fling", the student news publication.

Allocations: Lisa Monard is chairperson. We have two types of giving that takes place every year. There are recurring expenses and big one-time projects. Since the librarian informed us that the Outstanding Book Challenge event is being discontinued, we will not be donating.

Lisa passed out HASA 2018 Allocations Spreadsheet : The top expenses are the repeating allocations and bottom lists the new one-time items.

- Planetarium film for \$10,000. Film is about the invasion of Normandy and will be seen by students taking US History 2 (juniors). We have 3 year license to show movie and can invite students from other schools to see it, or offer it to the public, at large, for a fee.
- 3 Trauma stations - kits that could be used in a mass casualty situation. Kits will be placed at various locations throughout the school. They are mounted on the wall similar to AED's. The 3 kits cost approximately \$3,000. These kits are already in other schools. Each kit contains individual packaging for multiple people and are in a housing unit.
- Skylar the Hypnotist - will entertain seniors during electives audit day. Cost is about \$1,500.

The two Senior scholarships, that we fund, are awarded to the recipients at the Senior Awards Ceremony. HASA does not chose the winners! HASA is not even told who the winners will be.

Parent suggested paying to have a teacher yoga certified so some kids can do yoga during gym class.

Another parent inquired about adding ping pong tables for student activity.

Stacy named people who will be handling positions and tasks for HASA next school year. Jean Onufrak, will take over the Newsletter. Joy Wenberg will take over the treasurer position. Maria DiMartino, will remain as the secretary. Stacy has spoken to many people and sent many emails, trying to recruit more people to participate and be a part of the HASA Board. Please let Stacy know if you are interested in joining the HASA board.

Stacy explained that it is possible to skip the raffle fundraiser for next year because we have excess from this year.

Thanks to Dipti Chauhan for the treats and coffee today.

**Sports Association- Andrea Pennington:** Girls golf team doing really well and going to states in first time in school history. The boys golf team won in the Freedom division. Boys tennis did really well. Girls Lacrosse is #2 Seed and Boys Lacrosse is the #1 seed. The Golf and tennis

outing was held on Thursday, May 3. More than 20 woman played tennis and over 79 golfers participated. The eight open slots on Sports Association board were all filled.

**MPAA- Lisa Monard:** The Freshman Play, “12 Sketchy Variations”, will be performed this Thursday and Saturday night at 7:00pm in the auditorium. Jazz Night is Tuesday, May 29 at 7:00pm in the Auditorium. The Marching Band will be performing in the Allendale, Ho-Ho-Kus and Upper Saddle River Memorial Day Parades. Congratulations to John Dreyer who received a nomination for the 2018 Metros (The Metropolitan High School Theater Awards). John was nominated for Best Actor in a leading role for his part as the baker in this year’s musical “Into the Woods”.

**Treasurer’s Report- Kathy Travers:** As of May 14, 2018 the Money Market Account balance is \$21,802.82 and Checking Account balance is \$29,747.12

**Secretary- Maria DiMartino:** Motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting, April, 2018. It was motioned by Cathy Squasoni to approve and seconded by Kathy Travers.

**Membership- Michele Madonna:** Membership still open for anyone to join.

**Grocery Cards- Cathy Squasoni:** The grocery store fundraiser is on going and cards are available for sale. No longer selling Acme cards but will continue sales with Shoprite and Stop and Shop.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:59am